

SEPTEMBER 2006  
NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division  
Lieutenant Jerry Seevers

## Overview

The month of September is the last busy month of the summer season for the Northern Command. The month began with the annual Best of the West Rib Cook Off in Sparks. This annual event brings over 300,000 visitors to the downtown Sparks area. At the same time, the annual Burning Man event is held in the Black Rock desert north of Gerlach. This year's event brought over 39,000 visitors to the area. The Great Reno Balloon Races, the National Championship Air Races, the Virginia City Camel Races, the Lake Tahoe Marathon and the Street Vibrations motorcycle events are then held over the next four weekends in the Reno/Sparks area. All of these events tax the Northern Command personnel with numerous hours of overtime and crowded roadways.

The officers responded with a very solid month of traffic enforcement and education. There was an overall increase of 6.9% in enforcement activity over the same period last year. There was a very impressive increase of 46.5% in DUI arrests. In real numbers, 40 additional impaired drivers were removed from our roadways.

Total crashes were reduced by 5.6% over the same period last year. Most impressive was the reduction of fatal crashes. This year the command investigated 4 fatal crashes, with 5 deaths, in the Northern Command compared to 9 crashes, with 10 deaths, last year. The command also investigated a fatal crash in the Central Command near Hawthorne.

The Commercial Enforcement Section performed in an outstanding manner by meeting its Federal Fiscal yearly goals set in cooperation with the federal government. Commercial Enforcement's highlights included achieving; 144.73% of its Level I inspections, 192.86% of its Level 1 Hazardous-Materials inspections, 157.14% of its Level I Motor Coach inspections, 125.83% of its Level II/III inspections, 107.13% of its Level II/III Hazardous-Materials inspections, 119.72% of its Level II/III Motor Coach inspections, 382.91% of its Level II/III enforcement inspections, and 101.67% of trucks weighed on interstate highways.

The command achieved these results despite being short of staffing. Three new troopers reported for duty on October 3, and are currently being trained. Several more vacancies in the traffic and commercial enforcement sections remain vacant.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Sept 2006		Sept 2005	% Change		Aug 2006	% Change
Total Crashes	406		430	-5.6%		363	11.8%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	242		288	-16.0%		232	4.3%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	160		133	20.3%		127	26.0%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		9	-55.6%		4	0.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	25		16	56.3%		18	38.9%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	5		10	-50.0%		4	25.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		4	-75.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	3		0	300.0%		0	300.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		5	-80.0%		3	-66.7%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	25		34	-26.5%		21	19.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	20		31	-35.5%		13	53.8%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		3	66.7%		8	-37.5%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.0%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 6.2%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 20.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 6.2%

### CRASH ANALYSIS:

Total Crashes increased by 11.8% over last month, but decreased by 5.6% when compared to the same period last year. Property crashes dropped an impressive 16% from last year, but Injury Crashes increased by 20.3%. Fatal Crashes dropped by a very impressive 55.6% when compared to the same period last year.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Sept 06		Sept 05	% Change		Aug-06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	25		16	56.3%		18	38.9%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	126		86	46.5%		123	2.4%
Other Arrests	539		341	58.1%		489	10.2%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	235		176	33.5%		230	2.2%
Speed violations	2150		1975	8.9%		1834	17.2%
Hazardous moving violations	752		720	4.4%		650	15.7%
Occupant restraint violations *	274		296	-7.4%		303	-9.6%
Total violations [above violations included]	5566		5209	6.9%		4994	11.5%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	82		72	13.9%		54	51.9%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	60		46	30.4%		64	-6.3%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	759		833	-8.9%		623	21.8%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1		2	-50.0%		0	100.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	344		295	16.6%		363	-5.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2497		2240	11.5%		2307	8.2%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	107		98	9.2%		123	-13.0%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	97		89	9.0%		75	29.3%
Total school buses inspected	38		153	-75.2%		244	-84.4%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	2		30	-93.3%		23	-91.3%
Total trucks weighed	2566		103	2391.3%		810	216.8%
Total overweight citations	22		17	29.4%		41	-46.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	387		531	-27.1%		332	16.6%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

The Northern Command officers had a very solid month in the area of enforcement. When compared to the same period last year. Although DUI Arrests after a crash increased by 56.3%, the number of arrests made prior to crash increased by 46.5%. This statistic shows the officers are still aggressively seeking out the impaired driver. Total people arrested increased by 33.5%. Speed violations increased by 8.9%. Hazardous moving violations increased by 4.4%. Total violations cited increased by 6.9%. The only area of decline was Occupant Restraint violations by 7.4%.

## **RENO URBAN TRAFFIC**

The Reno Urban area's staffing continues to be plagued by inter-department transfers, light duty assignments, special enforcement assignments and military leave. With the recent promotion of a trooper, several troopers and one sergeant on FMLA leave or light duty assignments, a total of 28 troopers were available for field duties during the month of September. This does not take into consideration the training and other leave used. This total is far below the allotted 37 urban traffic positions and several measures are being taken to mitigate staffing concerns.

The urban area crash statistics remained the same as last year's total of 226. However, they were up by 18% over last month. No specific crash trends could be identified by reviewing the individual shift crash logs. Sixty one percent of the crashes were property damage only while thirty eight percent were injury or claimed injury crashes. There was one fatal crash in the urban area involving a motorcyclist that SIRT is handling.

Of the 226 crashes this month, 15 were identified as being alcohol related. This was up by 114% over last month and 87% over the same period last year. Despite the shortage of manpower, the total enforcement activity remained relatively unchanged over the same period last year, but showed an increase of 10% over last month. However, this month's 102 total DUI arrests remained the same as last month, but was an 85% increase over the same period last year.

Occupant restraint violations continue to increase despite the downturn in staffing. However, there seems to be no direct correlation between the increased enforcement efforts and the number of injury crashes investigated.

The urban area will continue to deploy strategies toward education and enforcement whenever possible and as staffing allows

## **CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN**

For the month of September all crashes have decreased on an average of 43% and 35% comparative to last year and last month. This is excluding injury crashes that have increased by 54.3% comparatively to last year and 3.8% compared to last month.

For the month of September, the CTM District had two (2) fatality accidents involving three (3) deaths. Both fatal accidents occurred on US-50 East near Lyon County Mile Marker 11. Both accidents are being investigated with the assistance of SIRT. Additionally, CTM handled two (2) serious injury accidents for the Carson City Sheriff's Office. Both accidents occurred on Curry Street and involved drivers under the influence of alcohol.

The CTM District showed an average increase in all areas of enforcement by 42% compared to last year and 35% to last month with exceptions of DUI arrests prior to crashes and Hazardous moving violations. These two areas show a decrease of 42.9%, 8.4% to last year and 50% and 2.3% to last month, respectively.

Both Day and Swing shift utilized the aircraft on four (4) separate dates in Washoe Valley, Cradlebaugh, and Double Springs. Additionally, Day Shift conducted two directed enforcement shifts with the results outlined in the enforcement section of this report.

A trooper is currently in his 8<sup>th</sup> week of the PSTO phase and is anticipated to complete on time in November. Another trooper reported to the CTM District the first week of October and will start PSTO Friday, October 6, 2006. That trooper filled the District's final vacancy.



## **FERNLEY/FALLON**

For a third consecutive month, the Fernley/Fallon District reports a reduction in total crashes compared to last year. Total crashes were down 8.1% compared to last year. Property damage crashes were down 9.1% compared to last year. Injury crashes were down 5.9% compared to last year and down 11.1% compared to last month. Fatal crashes remained the same as last year reporting one fatal crash but with a 50% reduction in persons killed. There was a 50% reduction in fatal crashes compared to last month.

Staffing levels remained the same as last month with Fernley holding one vacancy. This vacancy represents a 6.7% decrease in staffing at the trooper level for the district. Total hours worked for the month dropped nearly 10%. Despite the decrease in staffing and the drop in total hours worked, area sergeants aggressively staffed additional aircraft enforcement and area troopers stepped up their enforcement efforts. Total violations were up 14.6% compared to last year, and up 15.4% compared to last month. All reporting areas of enforcement were up compared to both last year, and last month except for DUI arrest prior to crashes, and occupant restraint violations.

The Burning Man event concluded in the Black Rock Desert, north of Gerlach, NV. The Highway Patrol Division staffed 119 shifts patrolling SR447. Burning Man representatives reported a new population record of 39,100 participants, an increase of 9%. Though the event had a 9% increase in population we had no increase in crashes over last year, and more important we had no fatalities on our highways. The Highway Patrol issued a total of 234 citations: 129-speed, 42-hazardous, 9-occupant restraint and 54-others. This was a decrease of 20% over last year's enforcement of 292 citations. Verbal warnings and mechanical repairs orders increased by 9% over last year's. 17 arrests were made for an increase of 240% over last year's 5. DUI arrests increased by 100%, 4 compared to last years 2. Burning Man personnel and all allied agencies reported a very calm event as compared to previous years.

After reviewing the statistical data and information provided for the month of September, the Fernley/Fallon District Sergeants and Troopers are to be commended for their hard work and dedication in their enforcement efforts and public service.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section has exceeded all of the goals and objectives set forth in the 2005-2006 Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). September is the twelfth month of the Federal Fiscal Year and the third month in the State Fiscal Year. The Northern Command achieved 144.73% of its Level I inspections, 192.86% of its Level 1 Haz-Mat inspections, 157.14% of its Level I Motor Coach inspections, 125.83% of its Level II/III inspections, 107.13% of its Level II/III Haz-Mat inspection, 119.72% of its Level II/III Motor Coach inspections, 382.91% of its Level II/III enforcement inspections, and 101.67% of trucks weighed on interstate highways.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section currently has 22 assigned positions. However, during the month of September, the commercial enforcement section staffing levels were down by four positions due to two vacancies and two troopers on light duty assignments. In September, the "total work hours lost" was down approximately 9.2% as compared to the previous year. This made up approximately 36% of our total work time lost.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section continued with its mandatory re-certification training. The time spent in training and instructing classes accounted for approximately 11.23% of the total time in September. Total overtime claimed for September was down approximately 25.3% from the previous year.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section handled three property damage crashes. None of these crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 26 other crashes. Out of 26 other crashes, 7 involved a commercial motor vehicle.

At the end of the 2005-2006 Federal Fiscal Year, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section completed five Strike-Force operations (STEP programs) in the Southern Command area.

The Northern Command sent one Trooper back to FMCSA/NTC in Washington, D.C. to participate in the NAS Part "A" & "B" instructor school. The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will utilize this person in our effort to update personnel in the basic Part "A" and "B" training classes.

### ***INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT (ICE) TEAM***

This is the third month of reporting statistics for the DPS Northern Command ICE Team as it became functional officially July 1, 2006. There are no comparison statistics for prior annual periods.

2 injury crashes were handled during this period. Both involved 3 vehicles, 1 at N. McCarran and 1 at Wells. Additionally, all of the units assisted with a fatal accident for approximately 8 hours each on 09-21-06.

Field enforcement activity included:

- 1 contact where a subject was arrested for Possession of a Controlled Substance for sales (23 tablets of Ecstasy)
- 1 contact where a subject was charged with 19 grams of Marijuana
- 1 contact resulted in a currency seizure of \$297,110
- 1 contact where a subject was arrested for Possession and Transportation of a Dangerous Drug (13,759 grams of Marijuana)
- Additionally, there were 2 DUI and several other misdemeanor arrests

The ICE Team is currently staffed with 3 officers and 1 sergeant. Total work hours lost was 442.5, or 66.11% of the 692 total staff hours. Most of the lost hours were a result of training. Our officers attended Desert Snow training in Laughlin for a week and had an additional week of training with the Southern Nevada ICE Team. We used 0 hours of Annual leave, 13 hours of Comp leave and 20 hours of Sick leave. There were 91.91 hours of claimed overtime and compensatory time accrued, 60 of which was for the Burning Man event.

The training with the Southern Command ICE team was very successful. In addition to the currency seizure and arrest for 30+ pounds of marijuana, the training helped to bring the other involved agencies on board with the methods of operation and the potentials of a successful interdiction team.

One of our officers is assigned to the unit from the Division of Parole and Probation. This officer began a PSTO program, which will provide the proper training and documentation to allow him to function as a solo unit. The other ICE Team members are serving as trainers

for this task. Until that officer is solo in a marked unit, the ICE Team has 3 working marked units when fully staffed.

## **AIR OPERATIONS**

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 71.4 hours during September. Of the total, 50.6 hours, or 71% of the flight time was spent on airborne speed enforcement. 22% of the flight time was spent transporting 9 prisoners within the state. 5% of the total time was spent on line patrol along SR477 for traffic returning from the Burning Man Festival. The remaining flight time was accounted for through training and maintenance.

13 of 15 scheduled speed enforcement missions were flown. One mission was cancelled due to high winds and one was cancelled for unscheduled landing gear maintenance.

For the month, 755 enforcement actions were taken. Of these, 26 were hazardous moving violations, 75 were non-hazardous, 646 were for speed and there were 8 seat belt citations issued. 13 motorist assists were spotted.

A new flight operations record was set on the September 1 enforcement mission. The mission was scheduled on IR80 at Derby Dam to coincide with W/B traffic returning from Burning Man. In 4.5 hours over the site, 127 enforcement actions were taken. This is an impressive 28 citations per hour.

During the enforcement mission on September 28, in Washoe Valley, A vehicle was spotted in the heavy commute traffic weaving in and out of traffic at 97 mph. Upon stopping the reckless driver, it was discovered he was DUI. A vehicle impound inventory also revealed a quantity of controlled substances.

Nine in state prisoner transports were conducted during the month.

Pilot currency in night operations and IFR conditions were also accomplished during the month.

The Northern and Central command pilots were present at the Reno Air Races with the Central Command aircraft and one of the Dodge Charger patrol units September 15 through 18. As always, the event was well received by the public and continues to be an excellent public relations and recruitment tool.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Sept 2006	Sept 2005	% Change	Aug 2006	% Change
<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>					
Accident Reports Processed	295	419	-29.59%	296	-0.33%
Arrest Reports Processed	211	147	+43.53%	236	-10.59%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	13	3	+333.33%	11	+18.18%
Office Accident Reports Taken	25	19	+31.57%	31	-19.35%
<b>COURT / WARRANT</b>					
Warrants Received	413	488	-15.4%	576	-28.3%
Warrants Entered	391	169	131.4%	426	-8.2%
Warrants Cleared	241	421	-42.8%	689	-65.0%
Warrants Validated	1220	191	538.7%	276	342.0%
Citations Processed	3773	3344	+12.82%	3501	+7.77%
<b>COMMUNICATION CENTER</b>					
Radio Transmissions	117873	99498	18.47%	108208	8.93%
CAD incidents	14833	11747	26.27%	13610	8.99%

**FRONT OFFICE**

One AAIL is still serving as the Acting Records Supervisor. Both clerks involved with the Warrants section have been heavily utilized for front office coverage due to 3 current vacancies.

The clerk serving as trainer to Warrants is still performing this task until the section moves to Carson City sometime in November. As well, these 2 clerks are still assisting with warrant validations, warrant confirmations and have performed 24 court call-offs. They were responsible for 7 court runs, processing 166 subpoenas, clearing 19 warrants, processing 133 citations for court, and 62 pieces of transport and miscellaneous court paperwork. Overtime utilized by the records section continues to be for assistance with the second-check backlog, and archiving the 2001 DUI and fatal accident reports.

The film clerk processed 124 Veripic cases this period, as well as 16 digital photo requests and 4 35mm requests. She is still assisting with Storekeeping duties and has made a large amount of progress in organizing and cleaning the storage warehouse.

Sick leave decreased this period by 63%, with compensatory leave heavily decreasing by 91% due to summertime coming to an end. Annual leave significantly increased. Paid overtime increased by 76% with the front office staff changing so drastically during the last rating period. Compensatory time earned decreased by 13%.

Office reports taken decreased to 25 for the month. Accident reports processed taken by troopers decreased by 0.33% this period. Arrest reports decreased by 10.6%. Incident reports taken by officers increased by 18%. Citations issued and processed increased by 7.77%.



## **COURT WARRANTS**

Court Warrants personnel are still in training. A new record keeping system has been put in place for Safestats. It is expected that this will more accurately reflect the work performed in Court Warrants. At this time, Dispatch personnel are aiding in the entering, packing, and double-checking of warrants until the backlog can be caught up. There is no historical data by which to compare, however, the Warrants section handled 2,848 warrants for this period, aside from their other functions such as court contacts, paperwork, and add bookings.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Northern Command Communication center is down 3 PSD I positions, awaiting and are background checks to attempt to fill. Two PSD I positions are currently in training.

Total work hours lost decreased by 31.78% since last month primarily due to a decrease in annual and comp leave and an increase in sick leave. It decreased by 21.23% from the previous year due to a decrease in annual leave.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 15.91% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 22.24% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 48.19% when compared to last month. Personnel in training accounted for 50.5% of overtime followed by 24-hour coverage for special events at 46.76%, coverage for training at 28.16%, and 22.96% for sick leave.

All but mandated training is being halted at this time due to a lack of personnel.

Radio transmissions increased by 18.47% over this period last year and increased 8.93% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 26.27% over last year and increased 8.99% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be caused by increased traffic calls and the number of units in the field.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

We began the month of September with the three day Labor Day holiday weekend that generated a number of traffic safety announcements due to the large volumes of traffic anticipated on our highways.

Additionally, the annual event north of Gerlach labeled "Burning Man" attracted thousands to the Black Rock desert throughout the holiday weekend. With additional troopers on duty for the increased traffic in our area of northern Nevada, we did not have one fatal accident in Northern Command during the event.

On September 11, members of the honor guard participated in a memorial service on the Capitol grounds with Director Togliatti and Governor Guinn. A memorial wreath was placed at the law enforcement memorial along with a moment of silence for those in attendance.

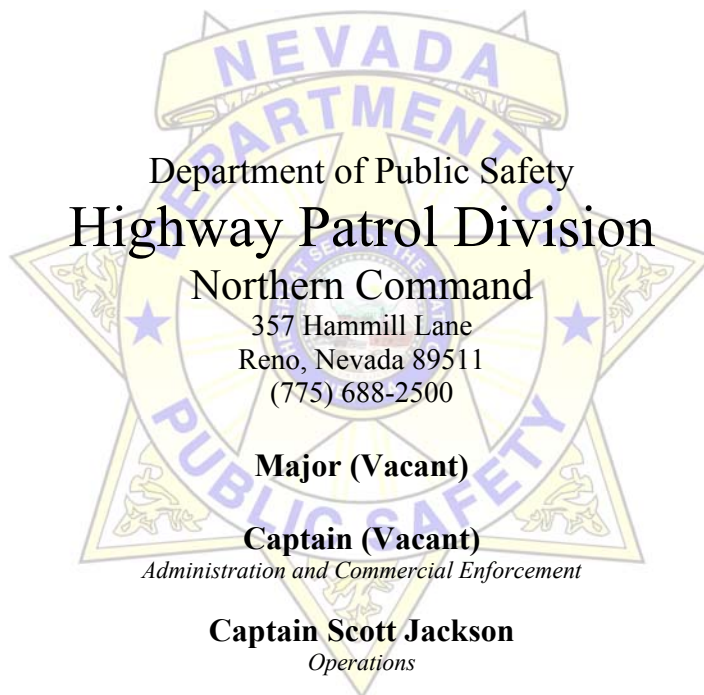
On September 15, members of the honor guard officiated at the DPS graduation ceremony at the National Guard headquarters in Carson City for the 56<sup>th</sup> graduating academy class.

Traffic safety presentations were delivered to a group at the Salvation Army in Reno and to 3 shifts of employees at Colorite plastics in Sparks. Common accident causing violations, road rage, DUI prevention, vehicle safety and winter driving tips were among the topics covered during the lectures.

With funding provided by the Northern Nevada DUI Task Force, five troopers from our Command were able to staff an alcohol awareness and education event at Scruples Bar and Grill labeled "If You Drink, Think." Patrons had the opportunity to keep track of the alcoholic beverages that each consumed with the opportunity to be screened by a trooper to show their level of impairment. The Intoxilyzer 5000 breath machine was also used to indicate the actual blood alcohol concentration level. This event generated a lot of positive media coverage during the 5 hour event on September 28.

We are continuing to provide live daily traffic reports to the community via News Channel 8 every weekday at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:25, and 8:25 am. Additionally, we provide traffic reports on 94.5 FM twice each weekday morning. Although the other television stations have radio reporters providing traffic reports, our agency continues to provide accurate accounts of our activity on the highway when requested.

As the summer driving season ended this month, we will be focusing a lot of effort on safe winter driving in anticipation to our first snowfall.



**Lieutenant Jerry Seevers**  
*Administration*

**Lieutenant Roger Vind**  
*Fernley/Fallon and ICE*

**Lieutenant John Stewart**  
*Reno Urban*

**Lieutenant William Bainter**  
*Commercial and SIRT*

**Lieutenant Charlie Powell**  
*Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe*